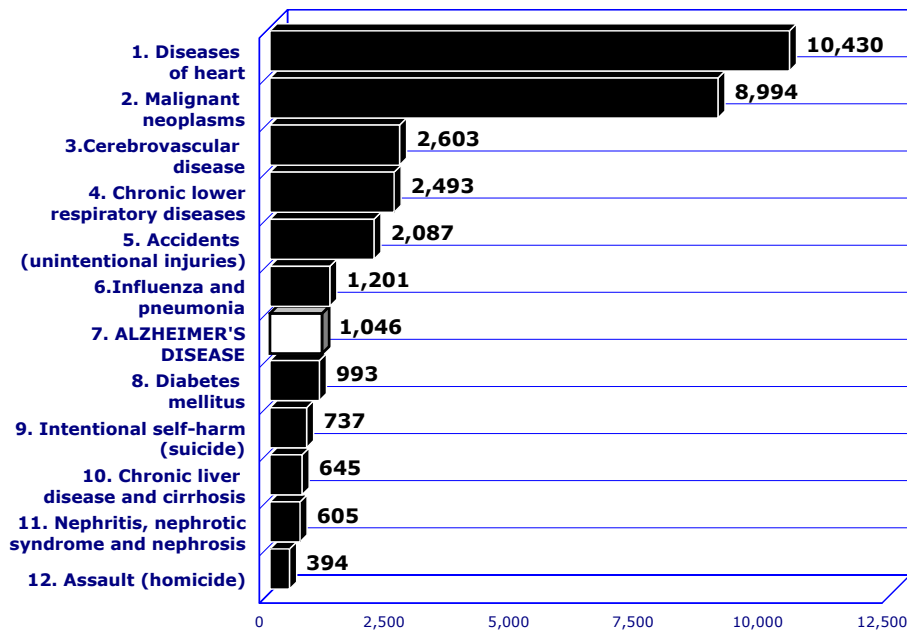


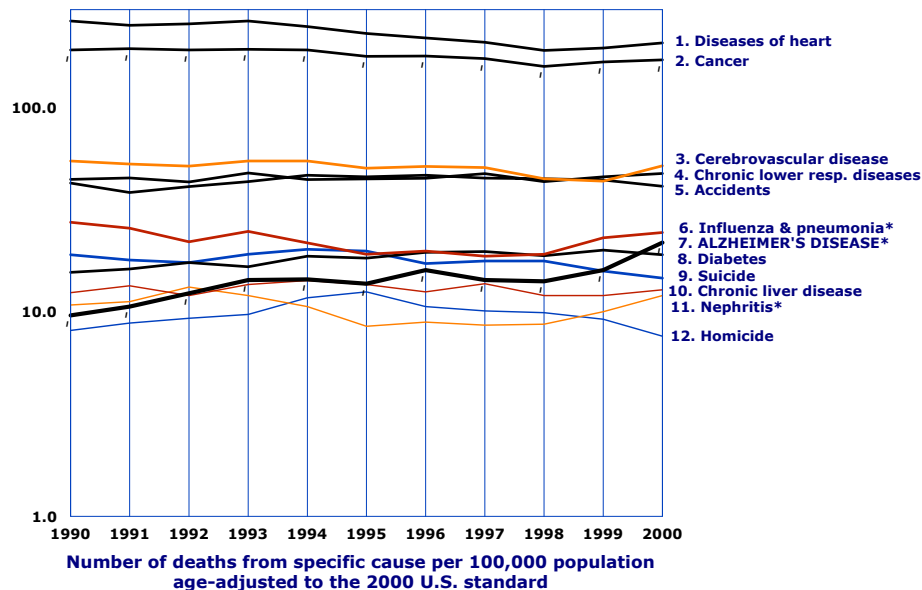
Key Findings

Figure 1
Alzheimer's Disease Among the Leading Causes of Death, Arizona, 2000



The number of deaths from Alzheimer's disease in Arizona in 2000 made Alzheimer's disease the 7th leading cause of deaths for all ages. (**Figure 1**). More Arizonans died in 2000 from Alzheimer's disease than they did from other chronic diseases, such as diabetes, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, or nephritis (kidney disease).

Figure 2
Trend in Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for Alzheimer's Disease and Other Leading Causes of Death by Year, Arizona, 1990-2000



The trend in mortality from Alzheimer's disease (**Figure 2**) reflects a number of factors such as 1) changes in attitudes of physicians and the public about attributing Alzheimer's disease as a cause of death, 2) availability of improved diagnostic procedures, 3) increase in the number of deaths attributed to Alzheimer's disease due changes in coding and classification of causes of mortality, 4) decreases in several other leading causes of death (homicide, diabetes, suicide, atherosclerosis).